



COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Colchester, CT

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

October 13, 2021 ~ **5:00 PM**
Virtual Meeting via BoardDocs and Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Joanne Rose, Suesen Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Amy Domeika (joined at 5:17PM)

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt

OTHERS PRESENT: BOE Chair Mary Tomasi

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Rose called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

2. *ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 *Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2021 Meeting

Motion by: S. Hickey

To approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 DEI Committee Meeting

Second by: J. Morozowich

Vote: Unanimous

Roll call: S. Hickey, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

5. *PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

5.1 District DEI Committee Update

The District DEI Committee met on October 12, 2021. The Committee will continue to review data on achievement, discipline, attendance, etc. At this time, this group will proceed separately from the School Climate Committee. Discussion of school-based committees ensued. Training opportunities with NCCJ are available to staff.

Superintendent Burt emphasized the need to properly identify areas of concern and the root causes behind them prior to implementing changes. With a Town of Colchester DEI committee also in place, there are many opportunities for involvement.

Committee member Amy Domeika joined at 5:17PM.

5.2 *Review BOE AdHoc DEI Committee Draft Goals

Chair Rose thanked Superintendent Burt for reviewing the draft goals of the Committee, then shared each goal with the Committee. Discussion ensued on the goals of this Committee. The draft goals are attached to these minutes.

Motion by: S. Hickey

To accept the goals of the BOE AdHoc DEI Committee as amended today, October 13, 2021.

Second by: J. Morozowich

Vote: Unanimous

Roll call: S. Hickey, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

The goals of the Committee will be brought to the full BOE.

5.3 Establish BOE AdHoc DEI Committee Priorities

The Committee discussed ways in which they can brainstorm priorities. Establishing definitions is the first step, as well as understanding goals and indicators. A survey may be used to gather information and inform an action plan.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Discussion on Student Representation

While student members cannot be members of the Committee, Chair Rose raised the question to the members of the Committee of how they can include student representation without singling students out. Superintendent Burt will speak to Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel and WJJMS Principal Chris Bennett about possible avenues for student input. J. Morozowich suggested including WJJMS students as well.

This item was tabled.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Recommendations for Future Training Materials

Chair Rose shared that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The themes for this year are a focus on recovery from pandemic, and ensuring that those with disabilities have full access and opportunity for competitive and integrated employment.

Amy Domeika shared ideas for phone apps for those with vision impairments. She sat in on a webinar on National Hispanic Heritage Month as well.

Suesen Hickey shared a children's book recommended in the Embrace Race webinar she attended: Ouch: Moments When Words are Used in Hurtful Ways by Dr. Michael Genhart.

The Committee members expressed gratitude to the PTOs that the current book fairs include many great social/emotional learning and DEI-related options for students.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Communications Discussion

Chair Rose is prioritizing the work to be done this month, and creating an action plan for communications.

9. ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING PRIORITIES

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:01PM.